

An Overview of the Health Cluster Localization Strategy

Towards a Meaningful Engagement of Local and National Actors in the Health Cluster

Health Cluster Localization Strategy

June 2024



All actors are invited to support the Global Health Cluster Strategy, launched in 2024. It is available in English, French and Spanish.



Purpose

The Strategy gives a practical and holistic approach to ensuring the meaningful engagement of local and national actors in the Health Cluster coordination mechanism, both in country-level Health Clusters and within the Global Health Cluster.

The strategy is for all Health Clusters, both health cluster coordination teams as well as partners, and iterates **all partners must play a collective role** in achieving localization within the Health Cluster.

The Strategy is available **online**



Definition

There are many definitions of localization, all which in essence seek to help (an organization) determine a process to support locally led action.

The Global Health Cluster has defined localization as:

“a collaborative and dynamic process for an equitable and meaningful engagement of local and national actors (L/NAs) - including local public institutions - in the Health Cluster aimed at achieving a locally led health response in line with the humanitarian principles.”



Strategic Priorities

The strategy highlights three priorities to act upon:

Leadership, Accountability and Monitoring

Empower local and national actors (L/NAs) to take on and effectively fulfil Health Cluster leadership functions at national and sub-national coordination platforms.

Enhance Equitable Representation, Participation and Visibility of local and national actors (L/NAs) in the Health Cluster.

Empower Local and National Actors (L/NAs) to Access and Control Resources that are fundamental to their meaningful engagement in the Health Cluster.



Key Principles

To ensure the meaningful engagement of local and national actors in the Health Cluster there are key principles **for all partners** to adhere to regardless of if they are UN, INGOs, local actors, observers, donors, academic institutions etc.



Adhere to **Humanitarian Principles, AAP, IASC and Health Cluster Commitments.**



Ensure contextualized approaches and adaption of the strategy to fit the environment.



Strengthen the engagement of L/NA in the Health Cluster with a multidimensional lens including various aspects such as ensuring visibility, adequate monitoring and evaluation, resourcing for coordination.



Capacity Sharing and strengthening. Recognize all actors have capacities that complement each other. L/NAs often have capacity to access and maintain trust of affected communities and provide services long after others have left.



Ensure appropriate Risk Sharing and Risk Management: Staff Safety, Security, and Wellbeing. The positioning of LNAs should not lead to an unacceptable transfer of safety risks.



Principles of Equitable Partnership is the foundation to effective stakeholder engagement and each partner must acknowledge the role each actor plays and complementarity.



Ensure inclusion of Marginalized L/NAs (WLO, RLO, Organizations for People with Disability/PWD, Gender Diverse Groups) in the Health Cluster.



5 Commitments

Based on the strategic priorities, the GHC Strategy has committed to achieve key targets by the end of 2025 to ensure a more meaningful engagement of local and national actors in the Health Cluster. These will be monitored and publicly reported on through a results monitoring framework.



Health Clusters will develop a Localization Action Plan.

> 65% of Health Clusters will develop and action plan



L/NAs will have equal power in the Health Cluster strategic decision-making.

> 80% of Health Clusters will have a Strategic Advisory Group (SAG)
> 30% of SAG members will be L/NAs



Health Clusters will share Coordination leadership with L/NA.

The proportion of L/NA co-coordinating in the Health Cluster will increase to

> 30% at national level
> 50% at sub-national level



Health clusters will create an environment for L/NA to participate equitably, recognize, respect, and value their contributions and strengths.

> 80% of L/NAs in each cluster setting report they are engaging as equal partners and can participate actively in coordination mechanisms (e.g. through CCPM)



Health Clusters will empower L/NAs to mobilize, control, and govern resources .

> 40% funds allocated by the Health Cluster will be dedicated directly to L/NAs.



Supporting Health Clusters in country

The GHC has developed different approaches to help health clusters at the country level collectively discuss, develop, and implement an action plan to support the meaningful engagement of local and national actors in the health cluster coordination mechanism.

Operational Tools

Facilitation Guides (partners' workshop)
Template (action plan, monitoring framework)
One pager, tip sheets
Simulation Exercises (SIMEX) on Health Cluster Coordination of L/NA
Terms of Reference (co-Coordination, SAG etc.

Country Support

Either in country or remotely develop with health clusters plan and implement workshops and/or SIMEX
Support on drafting Action Plans

Shared learning

Facilitate webinars with different health clusters partners to have shared learning on good practice and challenges being faced
Public reports

Country highlights: work underway and key outcomes

Advancing localization in Chad

In August 2024, Chad delivered the first ever SIMEX for local and national actors in the health cluster, bringing together 30 participants from 16 organizations.

The SIMEX aimed to increase understanding of the Health Cluster's coordination mechanisms, the responsibilities of the Health Cluster coordination team, and the collective roles of partners. This paved the way for a draft action plan to be developed in workshop held with all health cluster partners. [Read more here](#)

Developing an action plan to localize the Health Cluster in Burkina Faso

From November 7–9, the Health Cluster and WHO gathered 30 local and national actors in Burkina Faso to develop an action plan to localize health initiatives, enhancing local leadership, representation, and funding access.

The plan, to be implemented in 2025, outlines key priorities like capacity-building, co-ordination, and support for local health projects. These steps aim to strengthen the Health Cluster's collaboration with its 50 partners across Burkina Faso. [Read more](#)



For more information or support



bit.ly/LocalStrat4HC



healthcluster.who.int/resources/localization



healthcluster@who.int